

VIRGINIA HUD LINES

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E-Briefs from the Richmond Office of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
800/842-2610, extension 3742 Bill Miles, Director www.hud.gov/virginia

UNCOMMON CENSUS

Every winter, Continuums of Care funded by HUD conduct a census of the homeless to help insure that the range of services they provide reflect the needs of the homeless in their communities.. The census in Norfolk, though, has become much more than a mere head count. Reflecting Mayor Paul Fraim's pledge to end chronic homelessness within a decade, the City has used it to launch Project Homeless Connect, not just to count, but also to help the homeless. With more than 30 participating providers, the Project "connects" those it counts to the services they need. Last winter, 175 people received medical care, 135 submitted employment applications, 70 filed for government benefits, 17 found homes and 14 got jobs. It was so successful, the City's decided to do the same again in August, with help from even more providers. "Part of the homeless population is very distrustful of authority or people who try to help, and this dispels some of those fears," the Mayor said. "If we gain their attention or confidence, then we can help them." Find out more from the August 24th *Virginian Pilot*.

MAIN EVENT

Virginia's Department of Housing & Community Development has begun the competitive process of designating three new Main Street communities in 2007 to join 20 already in place. DHCD is holding January workshops to help communities meet an April, 2007 application deadline. But, DHCD adds, the first step for communities is to become a DHCD Commercial District Affiliate and attend Main Street training like the Economic Restructuring workshop in Berryville September 20th and 21st. Why seek Main Street designation? "With more than \$300 million in private investment occurring in Main Street communities since 1985," answers DHCD director Bill Shelton, "this program is making a positive impact on the economic vitality" of these communities. For more, visit www.dhcd.virginia.gov/mainstreet

ARE YOU GOING?

To the 2006 Statewide Neighborhood Convention in Danville, September 21st to 23rd. Call 540/342-2763 or visit www.vsnconf.org

BRIEF BRIEFS

Applications due September 15th for funding under Round II of Affordable Housing Program of Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. . Congressman Bobby Scott and Urban League of Hampton Roads launch With Ownership, Wealth program "to be there for the person from start to finish" so that first-time homebuyers don't "get discouraged". . Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities holds 21st annual conference in Williamsburg September 24th through 26th. . Virginia Association of REALTORS President Kit Hale and 40 REALTORS build Habitat for Humanity "house in a box" to ship to Gulf Coast. . City of Virginia Beach launches \$1.25 million campaign to make 50 neighborhood parks "kid-safe". . Congressman Rick Boucher announces \$300,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant to provide public water to 72 Lee County families. . 500 Roanoke College freshmen spend orientation week building Habitat home for Demetria Grogan who, says *Roanoke Times*, "was all smiles" as she watched her new home rise. . Richmond office of Community Housing Partners moves to 100 West Franklin Street, Suite 300. . Governor Kaine names Penny Johnson, a Wachovia vice president from Chesterfield County to Fair Housing Board and Clifton Strickland III, an architect from Virginia Beach, to Board of Housing & Community Development. . August 8th *Virginian Pilot* tells how Aberdeen Gardens in Hampton is using \$50,000 HGTV Restore America grant to restore roofs and windows weather-beaten by "decades of sun, snow and storms". . Sentara Health awards \$300,000 to Peninsula Institute for Community Health to open new clinic in Virginia Beach in 3007. . Appalachian Regional Commission to host *New Generation Jobs from Appalachia's Natural Resources* conference, October 11th to 13th in Pikeville, Kentucky. . .

NORFOLK BOUND

Want to avoid the crowds of post-Thanksgiving shoppers? Then join a of 800+ housing, community and economic development experts from across Virginia at the 2006 Governor's Housing Conference, November 29th through December 1st at the Norfolk Marriott Waterside. You'll find lots of "bargains," from workshops on green living to fair housing, from the nuts-and-bolts of e-grants to using data to tell your organization's story, from fighting predatory lending to helping homeless veterans. Juan Williams of NPR and FOX News is this year's keynoter. Register by September 29th at www.dhcd.virginia.gov and get a \$30 "early bird" discount. Questions? Call 804/372-7171.

BRIEF BRIEFS TOO

FHA Mortgagee Letter 2006-21 extends deadline for Katrina, Wilma and Rita's to apply for 203h disaster mortgages until September 2007. . USDA Secretary Mike Johanns awards \$135,500 Rural Business Enterprises grant to Scott County Economic Development Authority. . Governor's Office for Substance Abuse Prevention and Department of Criminal Justice Services open competition for up to 30, \$10,000 mini-grants to help young people "at-risk for gang involvement". . HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Cheryl Ziegler to keynote Total Action Against Poverty's Fair Housing Symposium September 28th in Roanoke. . EPA removes lead-contaminated soil from 28 residential sites in Portsmouth. . Virginia Fire Safety Board establishes "training min-grant" program to help 324 specified localities meet fire safety training priorities. . Tazewell Habitat for Humanity completes 12th home. . Charlottesville, Virginia Peninsula and Northern Virginia REALTOR associations to host REALTORFests on September 14th. . Civic Ventures picks Martha Rollins of Richmond's Boaz & Ruth as one of 15 finalists for Purpose Prize. . Register now for *Practice Green: Bottom-Line Benefits of Sustainable Design & Construction* workshop hosted by Virginia LISC and Virginia Center for Architects September 15th. . Planning Council and Regional Task Force on Homelessness launch affordable housing search page at www.housingconnect.org. . Suffolk cuts ribbon on new Cultural Arts Center after \$20 million transformation of old Suffolk High School. . Dollar General awards grant to Telamon to enhance English-language courses.

BIG PLUS

Governor Tim Kaine has announced a \$997,000 Federal grant to the Virginia Community Action Partnership to help more than 400 families open Individual Development Accounts, build assets and become homeowners. The new VIDA-Plus program, run by DHCD, will also receive \$997,500 in support from VJDA. For every \$1,000 saved towards homeownership, VIDA-Plus will provide a \$2,000 match. The Health & Human Services Assets for Independence grant, the Governor said, was "the largest in the nation in this funding round."

DON'T FORGET

Register now for HUD Richmond's free Historic Preservation Workshop on September 19th and 20th in Richmond. For more, contact Leroy_brown@hud.gov or call 804/771-2284. It's free, but space is very limited..

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